

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of December 19, 2005 (the Office Action) has been reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 1-105 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1-3, 5-9, 15, 16, 18 and 21-28 have been amended and new claims 92-105 have been added. Support the amendments and new claims can be found in the specification as originally filed. Note that claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form, but has not been substantively amended.

Claims 7 and 9

Applicants note that claims 7 and 9 were not addressed in the Office Action. As such, it would be improper to issue a final office action without permitting Applicants to address any rejections to these claims. Note also that claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form. However, claim 9 has not been substantively amended.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7 and 9 are allowable over the prior art of record. Independent claim 1, the subject matter of which has been added without amendment to claim 9 and from which claim 7 depends, stands rejected as allegedly being anticipated over U.S. patent publication no. 2005/0028208 to Ellis et al. (Ellis). As noted on page 4 of the Office Action, “Ellis is silent to the use of Bluetooth interface for communication.” For at least this reason, claims 7 and 9 are allowable over Ellis.

In addition, the Office Action relies upon U.S. patent no. 6,824,048 to Itabashi et al. (Itabashi) for teachings of Bluetooth communications. However, Itabashi fails to teach or suggest the use of a Bluetooth link key generated from a passkey for authenticating the mobile remote control means as recited in claim 9. As noted in the specification at paragraph 0042 with respect to an example embodiment according to the invention, “when mobile phone 200 including the inhibiting device is purchased passkeys can be provided in the sales kit. The passkeys may be used for generating link keys and for establishing secured communication links between the both mobile phones 100 and 200.” For this additional reason, Applicants respectfully submit that the advantageous subject matter of claim 9 is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claims 7 and 9.

Claims 1-6, 8 and 10-91

Claims 1-6, 8 and 10-91 stand rejected as allegedly being anticipated by Ellis or as allegedly being unpatentable over Ellis in view of Itabashi.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 as amended and claims 2-6, 8 and 10-91 depending therefrom are allowable over Ellis, either alone or in view of Itabashi.

Independent claim 1 recites, among other features, a method to inhibit functions of a first mobile terminal by using a second mobile terminal including inhibiting certain functions of the second terminal according to rule data transmitted from the first mobile terminal. The subject matter of inhibiting functions on a mobile terminal, or doing so via rule data transmitted from a first mobile terminal, is not taught or suggested by Ellis or Itabashi.

Ellis discloses an interactive television program guide that can be accessed via a remote control device. Abstract. Ellis is clearly directed to complex television program guides and related applications that are implemented on television set-top boxes, personal computer televisions or high-definition television receivers, which are not mobile terminals. See Ellis, paragraphs 22 and 223. Although Ellis does disclose remote program access devices (e.g., device 24 of Figure 1), such as an automobile personal computer (see paragraph 108), Ellis clearly teaches limiting the controls of a non-mobile set-top box and its program guide system. The access device of Ellis is portable, not the set-top box/program guide system that is being controlled. As noted in Ellis, "The program guide system therefore is not portable." Paragraph 0005.

There is no teaching or suggestion in Ellis of inhibiting functions on a mobile terminal as recited in independent claim 1 or of doing so via rule data transmitted from another mobile terminal. Itabashi fails to overcome these deficiencies of Ellis and it was not relied upon to do so. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 as amended is allowable over Ellis either alone or in view of Itabashi. Applicants further submit that claims 2-6, 8 and 10-91 are allowable along with independent claim 1 from which they depend and further in view of novel features recited therein.

Claims 92-105

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 92-102, which depend from claim 1, are allowable along with claim 1 and further in view of novel features recited therein. In addition, new claim 92 recites similar subject matter to claim 9 pertaining to a Bluetooth link key generated from a passkey, and is further allowable for similar reasons as claim 9. Further, new claims 93, 94 and 96-102 recite subject matter pertaining to inhibiting functions of a mobile telephone or a mobile game device, which is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record. For these additional reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 92-102 are allowable over the prior art of record.

New independent claim 103 recites a first mobile terminal that includes a server unit that performs steps comprising receiving inhibit rule data from a second mobile terminal via a wireless interface and inhibiting functions performed by its functional unit according to the inhibit rule data. As noted above with respect to independent claim 1, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the subject matter of inhibiting functions of a first mobile terminal based on inhibit rule data from a second mobile terminal. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 103 is allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 104 and 105 are allowable along with independent claim 103 from which they depend, and further in view of novel features recited therein, such as the recited subject matter of inhibiting mobile telephone functions or mobile game functions.

Application No.: 09/956,910
Reply to office action of December 19, 2005

Conclusion

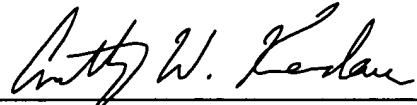
Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully urged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: March 16, 2006

By:



Anthony W. Kandare,
Registration No. 48,830

1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
Tel: (202) 824-3000
Fax: (202) 824-3001